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Watermarks

Howard-Tilton Memorial Library
Tulane University

University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign Oak Street

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Fall 2001

Story of the New Orleans Jewish Community Preserved at Tulane

"Don't be afraid of unpleasantness—funerals, illnesses, accidents, anti-Semitism, political fights in the town; the impact of war and depression are all a part of life. What is painful to one generation is insight to the next."

These were the admonitions of Eli N. Evans, one of the south's foremost Jewish historians, as he spoke at the Conference on Southern-Jewish History in the late 1970s. Evans was urging young Jewish southerners to interview their parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, about their personal experiences growing up Jewish below the Mason and Dixon line. Evans' concern is shared among all who value oral histories and family, and who recognize the vibrancy and universality of stories that emerge from private memory and private moments. His advice retains its substance: the distinctions and significances of Jewish family and community life in our own midst are still under-explored.

History books can tell us that entire New Orleans families were wiped out in yellow fever epidemics, or that southern synagogues were the sites of concerted civil rights efforts, but the primary sources of those histories can add texture to those chronicles. The words of mothers who buried their children one after another, or the recollections of rabbis who braved public ostracism and spoke against racism in Jim Crow's south provide close-up, tactile connections to those times and those troubles. The letters, scrapbooks, and family photographs of ordinary people and their schools, congregations, hospitals and civic groups also tell individual and institutional stories that join us most profoundly to our own pasts, and to our community histories.

The territory for exploration is richer than Evans perhaps implied. Much of it is available in hundreds of linear feet of storage boxes that make up the Southern Jewish Archives in Howard-Tilton Library's Manuscript Department. The evidence there provides more than a glimpse into the daily lives of Jews in New Orleans; and the view is both intimate and potent. Even a ledger book can reveal sorrow, hope, and perseverance.

(Continued on page 6)

Library Receives Gift of $1.9 Million

A $1.9 million gift from the estate of Virginia Brown Miceli has been given to Tulane for the exclusive use of Howard-Tilton Memorial Library. Miceli, who died last year at the age of 90, and her husband, Augusto, credited the staff at the library as being indispensable to Mr. Miceli's research. The Micelis had a long history of association with the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, and were founding members of The Friends of the Tulane University Library in 1976.

Miceli, an attorney by profession, had an early attraction to the literary circles of New Orleans when he arrived here from Cefalu, Sicily in 1920. Testing his English skills, he contributed poems and translations to the literary magazine, *The Double Dealer*, which also published works by William

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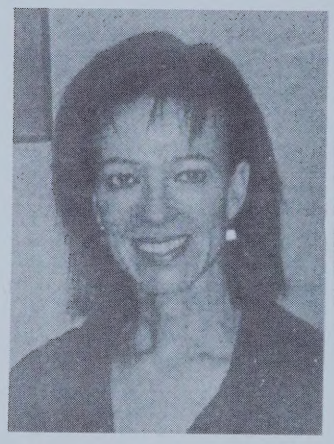
Main Entry: ¹ **wa·ter·mark**
'wo-t&r-"märk, 'wä-
Function: *noun*
Date: 1678
1 : a mark indicating the height to which water has risen
2 : a marking in paper resulting from differences in thickness usually produced by pressure of a projecting design in the mold or on a processing roll and visible when the paper is held up to the light; *also* **:** the design of or the metal pattern producing the marking

Librarians in Times of Conflict



Sara Williams, editor, Watermarks

In my first frantic e-mails to a lifelong friend now living twenty blocks from what was the World Trade Center, the subject line was "Apocalypse On Your Street". That the rest of the world seems to have settled for calling the events of September 11,"The Events of September 11" is clue enough that we may not just yet have words big enough to capture that fiery morning in all its horror and grief and devastation. The date alone must carry the meanings, and the questions.

But as we reach for answers we are likewise producing a profusion of words to wrap around our questions and fears; consider the news stories, the signs in shop windows (YES,WE HAVE CIPRO! and GOD BLESS AMERICA!), the political speeches, the academic seminars, and even the flurry of patriotic greeting cards. Each is an attempt to find order, a plan, some reason or hope or cure in a world that suddenly needs a big supply of all of these. Words are not just expressions of our thoughts and theories but are also the tools we use to build, and grapple with them. The stories, editorials, research, and sermons that emerge out of a "challenge," an "alert," or a new war are also textual tools for understanding, for victory, and for peace.

American Libraries' October cover story, "The Last Librarian: A Cautionary Tale," then seems particularly ill-timed, and premature. It was intended to be a farewell to the bunned and bespectacled shsh-ing stereotype in sensible attire who, in a by-gone era served as Reader's Advisor, a counselor who handled paper and ink, but who dealt in ideas. She was a woman, generally, who read a lot, and could tell you where to go for reasons, directions, opinions, research, or balm for whatever was troubling you.

Do we need any less now? Today's librarian often takes a different route, among online databases, e-journals, and cyber-catalogs on the information super-highway, as well as along buckram and paper backroads, but the goals are the same: answer the questions, reveal the ideas and counter-ideas, help construct solutions, make the world better, and keep conversations going. Call her (or him) a cybrarian if you like, but do call. Whether you're looking to know the mind of a terrorist, the terrain of Afghanistan, or how to answer your children's questions about what helicopter soldiers eat for lunch, a librarian knows what will set you on the right path.

Maybe you just need some diversion from the panic. I complained to a librarian (not a Cybrarian, or even an Information Scientist) last week that every novel I picked up had me knee-deep in Nazi war criminal trials, suicidal mothers, or devilish preachers from ten pages in. "Isn't there anything funny left to read?" I moaned. He suggested the works of Gerald Durrell, brother of the novelist Lawrence Durrell. "You'll laugh out loud," he said. And I did, for the first time since September 11, reading *My Family and Other Animals*. I needed that laughter more than a dose of Cipro. Long live the librarian, with her hot tips up her sensible sleeves. Especially now.

"After all, the librarians know the exact locations and sizes of all the angels, and all the devils, and where, precisely, they keep the miracles."

Dr. James Collier, in an address at the University of Alabama, 1999.

Confused? Don't worry, we answer to these, and other names…

Cyb(r)arian: The information staff in a virtual library, totally electronic, and navigating through cyberspace

Information Scientist: A professional member of the staff of an information service or special library, skilled in the use of and exploitation of specialist subject resources

Librarian: One who has care of a library and its contents; including selection of stock, its arrangement and exploitation, and the provision of a range of services in the best interests of all groups of users

Reader's Advisor: An experienced and tactful member of the staff who advises readers on their choice of books.

Definitions adapted from Harrod's *Librarians' Glossary* (Aldershot, England: Gower, 1995)

Howard-Tilton Debuts Wired Classrooms

The library's instructional division, the Center for Library User Education (CLUE) , in partnership with Tulane's Innovative Learning Center (ILC) has established two state-of-the-art technology-equipped classrooms on the third floor of Howard-Tilton Memorial Library. CLUE, the new name for Howard-Tilton's reference and information service mission to promote information literacy on campus, is thriving in its new home.

The new facilities are a complete turn-around from the library's former instructional area, which Dean Lance Query had described as "a miserable little space with one work station." One of the classrooms can accommodate about forty students, about twice as many as previously. The other provides twenty student workstations for connectivity to the campus network. Both rooms feature Smart Boards, electronic whiteboards that feature touch-sensitive surfaces for accessing and manipulating any point-and-click computer application. Document cameras in both rooms enable instructors to display text, photographs, drawings, or even three-dimensional objects, on a computer screen or wall screen.

Jean-Paul Orgeron, head of CLUE, notes that these technologies support active learning and greater classroom participation. "The touch technology allows the class to see exactly what, and where, on the computer screen certain applications take place, so you don't have to constantly explain what you're doing on a keyboard, or a with a mouse, that the students can't see. Instead of spending time and effort talking about mechanics, you can concentrate on content," he said.

Sara Williams, a reference librarian, adds that the design of the interactive classroom creates opportunities for simultaneously comparing databases. "In the past we had to move sequentially from one database to another, teaching each one separately. This can consume a lot of class time and it can be confusing when looking at a several databases. With small groups searching the same topic in different databases simultaneously, students can compare their results, and address questions about what's significant about the differences," she said.

Williams also noted that the new technologies make it easier to teach the old research technologies. "Books are marvelous media, intellectually and aesthetically, and they're going to be around for a long, long time. I haven't taught a class yet that wouldn't benefit from the kinds of authoritative and logically organized bibliographies, tables, illustrations, indexes and other research guidance that the best ones offer. As pedagogically ineffective as it is, waving classic reference works in front of the class like great talismans has always been irresistible to me; I felt an obligation to introduce students to titles like the *Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, or *Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia*, or any of the Oxford companions, and other works I knew would serve them well, even when I knew they couldn't see the pages. Now, with the document camera, I can open the book and project on the screen a clear image that reveals what I'm so enthused about."

"'Wired' classrooms are flashy and fun, so there's been some criticism they allow the computer and its peripherals to become the center of attention rather than the concepts you're trying to get across," Orgeron said, "but when you see what marvelous tools they are, you start thinking of all sorts of ways they can enhance the instructor's message, and save time doing it."

Williams added, "The classroom supports a holistic approach to what used to be print vs. electronic, or skill-based vs. concept-based issues. The ability to let students make the comparisons themselves in an interactive classroom, and to seamlessly integrate different print and electronic resources, allows librarians to introduce both mechanical and conceptual skills involved in questioning the system. We can use real time to explore how to exploit the best resources, and we can demonstrate that even subtle differences in framing questions and addressing them to different resources can alter results, often dramatically."

For more information about library and information resources instruction, call Jean-Paul Orgeron at 862-8000 Ext. 2916, or speak with your subject bibliographer. Instructors can schedule sessions for their classes by picking up a form at the Howard-Tilton Reference Desk, or by submitting the electronic form at library.tulane.edu/biform.htm. Early requests are strongly urged, as space and librarians are limited and slots fill up quickly.

Easier, Faster E-journal Access

While the Library has been steadily adding to its online collection of full-text periodicals , making all of them easily accessible to library users has been a challenge. Because e-journals often come bundled as part of a publisher's or distributor's package, and may be associated with either an individual online journal source or an article database, systematic inclusion of these titles into the TULANet-Voyager database has been problematic; there has not been a central location from which to search for full-text journal titles online.

A solution, however, is close at hand. The Library is developing a new central interface to the full-text periodicals it obtains called the E-Journal Title Sleuth. The Title Sleuth provides alphabetical lists of periodicals with full-text and hotlinks for each title, as well as information about the ranges of volumes and dates covered online. A search engine locates specific titles within these lists. E-Journal Title Sleuth is on the opening page of TULANet Voyager's Digital Resources.

Andy Corrigan, Assistant Dean for Collections and Information Services, has noted that although TULANet Voyager's Local Catalog might look like the best access point for full text journals, the new ways in which information is packaged and marketed prevents this from being a complete solution. "The Library has been adding links in the catalog to individual online journals for some time and plans to continue this practice into the future," Corrigan said, "but there are good reasons for not including in the catalog links to thousands of other titles covered by the article databases to which the library subscribes, at least for now. One primary reason is the keen competition for titles among the producers of these databases, with the result that their title lists aren't stable."

Article databases include those such as InfoTrac One-File and Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe. They function as searchable bins containing millions of articles purchased from a huge variety of publishing sources, but they lack the stability and browsable tables of contents provided by the online journals produced individually by the journal publishers themselves. "The Library selects its individual online journals to match the research needs at Tulane, but it's useful to note that InfoTrac selects its titles to satisfy the broadest possible audience. I think Title Sleuth will help direct students to titles they know they want to see, ideally after searching one or more of our authoritative index or abstract databases," Corrigan said.

The Library is working with SerialsSolutions, a company founded by University of Washington librarian Peter McCracken, whose institution faced a similar dilemma with its varied collection of full-text sources. SerialsSolutions will provide monthly updates to Title Sleuth's title lists, monitoring title changes among the article databases. "This is a huge task that our library could not possibly undertake alone, but SerialsSolutions has found in this a service it can provide for us and other libraries at a reasonable price," said Corrigan.

SerialsSolutions predicts that, given the number of subscription sources that the Howard-Tilton has acquired and supplied to them, the E-Journal Title Sleuth may be able to provide this enhanced access to well over 10,000 full-text journals, magazines, and newspapers.

main entry: **E-Journal**, or **Electronic journal**
function: *noun*

1: A journal for which the full end product is available on optical disk, over a network or in any other electronic form. Strictly, a journal in which all aspects of preparation, refereeing, assembly and distribution are carried out electronically. A developing area in which many problems need resolving-copyright, distribution, funding, peer review, research assessment—before the electronic journal is accepted by all.

(from *Harrod's Librarian's Glossary*, 1995).

Expanded Library Hours Planned

During fall and spring semesters Howard-Tilton Memorial Library will soon be open until 5:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, announced Lance Query, Dean of Libraries and Academic Information Resources. Security and staffing issues must be resolved before the expanded schedule begins, but the hiring of additional security officers and library personnel is well underway. Howard-Tilton is responding to its users who find the early morning hours a more convenient time to use library facilities. Although most library services will not be available between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., users will be able to access computerized databases and of course, the stacks and study areas.

Augusto and Virginia Miceli leave generous legacy to Howard-Tilton Memorial Library

(Continued from page 1)
Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway in their early careers. Miceli attended law school at Loyola and earned a doctorate in law from the Royal University in Rome in 1934. He worked for the Standard Fruit Company and the law firm of Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrere and Denegre. Miceli had a distinguished law career and was well respected in the New Orleans community.

As he settled into his career, Miceli returned to his earlier literary interests. In 1964 he published a limited edition of *The Pickwick Club*, an account of the New Orleans organization of which he served president. Later, he published a work based on his reading of an 1824 account of Giacomo Beltrami, an Italian explorer who searched for the source of the Mississippi River. This work is *The Man With the Red Umbrella: Giacomo Constantino Beltrami in America* (Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1974).

The Micelis have made numerous donations to the library over the years including Mr. Miceli's research notes and the law books from his academic career in Rome. Lance Query, Dean of Libraries and Academic Information Resources says the generosity of the Micelis will enable the library to pursue a fitting tribute to their support and vision. The library is considering several options for the use of the gift.

Augusto Miceli, an Italian student activist against Italy's fascist regime, originally came to New Orleans in 1920 to visit his sister. He was unaware of a letter sent by his father urging the sister to make the city so attractive that Augusto would not return to Sicily.

Kudzu links Southeastern Research Libraries with Shared Catalogs and Enhanced Interlibrary Loan

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) has created Kudzu, an electronic library system that links the catalogs of fourteen regional libraries plus the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago. Kudzu allows not only simultaneous searching of these research library collections, but also offers enhanced interlibrary loan capabilities. The Howard-Tilton Memorial Library is one of the founding institutional Kudzu members.

Kudzu is a cooperative venture that currently links more than 160,000 students,and 14,000 faculty members at the participating institutions to a shared catalog of about 24,000,000 volumes. It is available only to students and faculty of Kudzu institutions, a list which includes Auburn, Clemson, the Center for Research Libraries, East Carolina University, Mississippi State University, University of Alabama, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, University of Mississippi, University of South Carolina, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Wake Forest University.

Not only are Tulane students, faculty and staff offered access to the combined catalogs of these institutions, but they can make interlibrary loan requests for books held by other libraries directly from the Kudzu online catalog. Loan requests submitted through Kudzu receive priority processing and expedited two-day delivery. The system cannot process journal article or other non-book requests; these must be submitted through regular interlibrary loan request forms.

The Kudzu catalog is available through Howard-Tilton's homepage. Users should select the "Catalog" option, then select "Library Information". The link to Kudzu appears in the "Consortia Catalogs" box.

For additional information, contact Jennifer Cella in the Interlibrary Loan Department at jcella@tulane.edu, or at campus extension 5695.

JC

Culture of the New Orleans Jewish community preserved in Jones Hall

The Manuscripts Department acquires new holdings almost exclusively through donation. Gifts of materials and funds are essential to maintaining and developing the collections and the department welcomes the support of donors.

(Continued from page 1)

And even casual researchers can find the stories there. Opening one frayed cloth-covered volume to the entries for a summer of the early 1840s, a column of names and ages in faded blue fountain ink appears. The hand, and perhaps even the pen is unchanged- the entries are only weeks, sometimes days apart: Rosabella, 7, Miriam, 14, Henry, 3 years and 6 months, and finally, for that family, an entry for "infant", whose vault number is the same as his mother's, with the added designation "1/2." We don't need to peruse the previous or following yellowed pages to see the pattern repeated—entire families buried within weeks of each other—to know that an epidemic was at hand. Neither do we need textbook prompts to elicit the questions that build a framework for exploring the meanings of loss and fevers and faith in a closely-bound community.

Archival records are predictable in certain ways: religious organizations will inevitably save architectural drawings and photographs of their houses of worship, and in nearly monotonous succession, group portraits of their religious classes, graduating seniors, boards of directors, and women's auxiliaries. But even the most pedestrian archival folders contain revelations—some in the very sameness of the contents—like the shy self-awareness of early adolescence portrayed in the grins across generations of boys celebrating their Bar Mitzvahs. Others are anachronous curiosities—like the collection of black-and white studio portraits of bejeweled ladies in evening gowns, all inscribed, in the custom of a more naive era, to a beloved rabbi.

The holdings in Tulane's Jewish studies archives are extensive, particularly for local history. Tulane is the official archives for all major Jewish congregations in New Orleans, including Touro, Temple Sinai, Gates of Prayer, and Tikvat Shalom, as well as for major Jewish organizations such as the New Orleans section of the National Council of Jewish Women. Leon Miller, archivist for Tulane's Manuscripts Department, makes a concerted effort not only to support core holdings of official archives of the major synagogues and Jewish organizations in the area, but to strengthen and support related areas.

"For example," Miller says, "we are quite strong in papers and records documenting social welfare in New Orleans, and the Jewish welfare agencies are a big part of that. We strive to interlock these subjects so that they strengthen each other. And we have extensive southern women's materials, which support our files of temple sisterhoods. Military history is another focus, and we keep the records of the local chapter of the Jewish War Veteran's Association."

Miller works closely with other agencies and archives to augment and make available Jewish historical resources in the city. He noted, for examples, that Yvonne Strug of Temple Sinai and Catherine Kahn, the archivist at Touro Infirmary have been extremely supportive in bringing together Jewish history documents from their institutions. A recent publication by the The Greater New Orleans Archivists, *Jews of New Orleans: An Archival Guide*, is a cooperative effort by New Orleans institutions to make local Jewish history resources accessible.

Miller understands that archival files are filled with stories: account books document fat and lean times, drawings and letters detail plans and desires—both realized and unrealized, and photographs tell who and what people revered in their lives. Always considering the broad view of the lives of Jewish people in the south, he is able to provide researchers with the kind of archives that keeps yielding a vital and intricate web of Jewish southern history.

The Manuscript Department is bolstered by collections in Howard-Tilton's main library. Jack Calbert, Howard-Tilton's history and Jewish studies bibliographer, notes that the collection has had some extra support in the past from endowed funds, including one dedicated to holocaust literature, but these have dwindled significantly in recent years. The library does maintain a modest annually appropriated

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Electronic Reserves Accessible 24/7

The Reserve Department now offers electronic reserves (ERes). The ERes system makes test files, class notes, journal articles, and other reserve materials available in electronic format via the Internet. Electronic materials can be accessed from the Tulane University ERes home page at http://eres.library.tulane.edu. A link to ERes is also available under Course Reserve in TULANet Voyager.

ERes provides online access to course reserve materials for enrolled students. Suitable items submitted by faculty are scanned by the library, converted to electronic format and stored during the appropriate semester on a local server. Electronic copies of the materials are provided in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) and are available to registered students from any Web-enabled computer. Suitably equipped computers and printers are available both in Howard-Tilton and the Matas medical libraries. Students may also be able to access the ERes collection from home, office, or other remote site, depending on their equipment and network connectivity.

ERes is designed to provide students with online access to digitized reserve materials 24 hours a day. They may choose to search for reserve items by instructor name or by department and course number. After the image appears on the screen, the user has the option of reading it online, downloading it to a disk, or printing one copy. Copyright restrictions require ERes items to be password-protected. Passwords are assigned and distributed by the course instructor, and are not available from library staff.

For information about placing items on electronic reserve, or using electronic reserve material, please email Eres@tulane.edu, or contact Annie Bullock or Jennifer Cella at 862-8000, ext. 1783.

Jewish collections serve Tulane and the community

(Continued from page 6)

fund dedicated to the purchase of Jewish studies material. Calbert notes that the collection is "skewed toward materials supporting the modern Jewish experience and culture in the United States; holdings in Judaism in Europe and the Mediterranean are less strong."

"Because we don't have a theology school at Tulane, theological materials are few, except those acquired via faculty and student requests, which we try to honor as the budget allows," Calbert said. He noted the collection is strong for "historical, economic, political and sociological issues relevant to Judaism in the twentieth century."

"The best endowed fund relevant to Jewish studies since I've been here has been the Holocaust Fund, which the Mintz family has supported," Calbert said, adding that the holocaust literature is such a vast field, we can really only acquire a portion of it."

"We have a solid undergraduate collection here, and it complements an outstanding archival collection in Jones Hall, but it is not a research-level collection at this time," Calbert said.

Chris Brady, the Director of the Jewish Studies Program at Tulane, agrees that the Howard-Tilton collection is a sound, basic collection that meets the needs of most undergraduate students. Brady is in the fortunate position of administering a private fund that supports an additional book collection in the Jewish Studies Program offices on campus, the Dr. L. Joseph Cahn Library of Hebraic Studies. Brady says he tries to pick up items for the Cahn collection that are beyond the means of Howard-Tilton. "I can buy more items from small presses, items that address issues above the undergraduate level, and titles that are too costly for the main library."

Other resources for Jewish studies material on the Tulane campus are the Amistad Research Center in Tilton Hall , Howard-Tilton's Maxwell Music Library, the Hogan Jazz Archives in Jones Hall, and the Nadine Vorhoff (Women's Center) Library in Caroline Richardson Hall.

SW

Jews of New Orleans: An Archival Guide is available for US$10 (plus $2.50 shipping and handling) from the library's Special Collections Division.

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BARBARA TUCHMAN

You are cordially invited to join
The Friends of the Library.
For more information, call 865-5685.

Watermarks Volume 2 Issue 2

Howard-Tilton Memorial Library now has its own domain in the metaverse:

library.tulane.edu

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Contributors to this issue include Jennifer Cella, Andrew Corrigan, Eleanor Elder, Rebecca Malek-Wiley, Wilbur Meneray, Leon Miller, Jean-Paul Orgeron, and Sara Williams.

Exhibits

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

- *September through December*: "Stem Cell Research"

LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY

- *Late October to early December:* "XII Annual Day of the Dead Exhibit"
- *Mid-December to mid-January:* "Celebrating Christmas in Latin America"
- *Mid-January through spring:* "Tropicália: a Brazilian Musical Style of the 60s." Professor Christopher Dunn will install this exhibit on the tropicália movement in Brazilian popular music.

MUSIC LIBRARY

- *Fall semester:* "Made in the USA." This exhibit celebrates the wide variety of American composers and performers, displaying books, scores, and recordings from the Maxwell Music Library holdings.